

Volunteer Newsletter

Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge



Photo courtesy Paul Castrovillo

August 2016

Common Green Darner Dragonfly (*Anax junius*) resting before flight

Don't Miss These Volunteer Opportunities *Volunteers especially needed for:*

National Public Lands Day (Sep 24th)—Improve habitat for wildlife and celebrate your public lands.

Monarch Butterfly Monitors (ongoing through Oct)—Participate in citizen science on the Refuge.

Visitor Counting (varies)—Be our eyes on the ground and help us estimate Refuge visitation.

What's New?

Eagle and osprey nesting are over, so all trails near the Visitor Center are open.

Southwest District Health (SWDH) has issued a health advisory for Lake Lowell due to the presence of toxin-producing blue-green algae in the water. The lake remains open to boating and fishing, but visitors are advised not to swim and to keep pets and livestock from drinking the water. For more information contact Laurie Boston with SWDH at (208) 455-5325.

Cheers!

Cheers to all Refuge volunteers! Please join us for the Volunteer Ice Cream Social! *See next page.* Thanks to Biodiversity Basics volunteers for making our first summer day camp a success!

Around the Water Cooler

August is a month of hellos and goodbyes. Incoming RV Volunteer Judy Miller will be joining us through October.

Those leaving include Deb and Martin, our outgoing RV Volunteers; Wylmarie, our Latino Outreach Fellow; and Wendy (me!),

the Refuge Volunteer Coordinator. For now I leave you with some reflections from the team:

Wylmarie has enjoyed “getting to know the needs of the community and to see that no matter where you are, many things are similar.” She will be returning to Puerto Rico to pursue her graduate school goals.

Deb and Martin are heading home for the football season, but they have enjoyed helping with everything from maintenance to education. In their travels in Idaho they both agree that slices of pie from Trudy's Kitchen in Idaho City are well worth the 100-mile round-trip drive.

And from all of us, thank *you* for being such a wonderful, friendly community to work with!



Say hello to new
RV Volunteer Judy Miller
(Photo USFWS)

Friends of Deer Flat Wildlife Refuge

The Friends of Deer Flat is a non-profit organization that supports Refuge activities. Tax-deductible memberships start at \$10. Email friendsofdfr@gmail.com for more info.



Upcoming Events

Unless otherwise stated, events take place at the Visitor Center.

Reading at the Refuge—

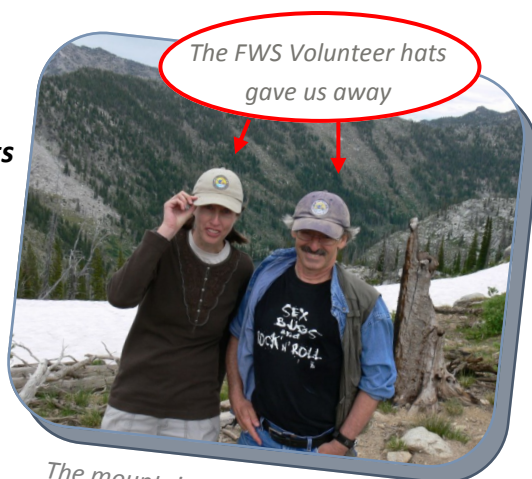
Aug 1 and 15, 10a and 2p.

Preschoolers are invited to a wildlife-focused story time.

Desert Detectives Day

Camp August 8-12, 9a-

12:30p Come discover how plants, animals, and people survive in the desert of



The mountains are big, but the world is small. A Deer Flat volunteer and a Deer Flat volunteer coordinator meet randomly on a ridgeline outside of McCall.

Photo USFWS/Irwin

southwest Idaho. Kids going into 2nd & 3rd grade dissect owl pellets, explore a wetland, create field guides, and more! **Free! Camp full but waiting list spots available.**

Volunteer Ice Cream Social

August 20, 1-2:30p. Join us at the Visitor Center for cool treats and conversation! ***Please RSVP by Aug 16th.***

Don't-Miss Volunteer Opportunities!

Think you might not have the skills needed to help? Don't worry! Training is provided.

National Public Lands Day—Sep 24, 9a-noon. **Deadline to register: Crew leaders, Aug 26th, Crew members, Sep 19th.** Celebrate our public lands by volunteering to improve habitat for wildlife! Projects to include removing noxious weeds and picking up litter. Crew leaders also needed to help with a variety of projects!

Monarch Butterfly Monitors—Flexible schedule, through mid-October. Help researchers understand monarch populations. Learn how to monitor a milkweed patch and submit monarch sightings on the Refuge or near where you live.

Visitor Counting Surveyor—2 hours in the morning (between 8a and noon), 6 times/month (4 weekdays and 2 weekends). Drive around the Refuge in a Refuge vehicle to count the total number of vehicles at each Refuge access point and fill brochure boxes.

Other Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

Maintenance Crew—Wednesdays and Fridays, 7:45-12:00. Come help with weed control and various outdoor projects around the refuge.

Nampa Farmers Market Outreach—Saturdays through October, 8:30a-1:30p. Spread the word about the Refuge and get people excited about wildlife. Volunteer to take charge of a Refuge booth.

Vehicle Maintenance—Flexible, monthly. Check refuge vehicles to make sure they are well-maintained. ***No need to be a car expert!***

Collecting Owl Pellets—At your convenience. Owl pellets are dissected in our education programs. We always need more! If you have access to owl pellets, please bring them to the Visitor Center. If you know where they can be found, let us know where to collect them.